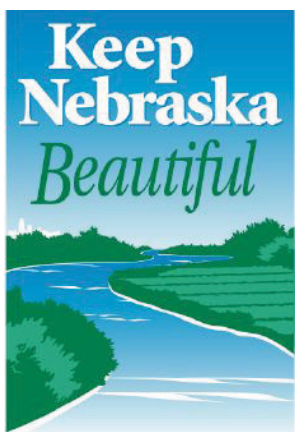


## NE SC3 Vision

The goals of the Nebraska SC3 initiative are to raise the awareness of chemical hazards, provide tools to prevent chemical exposures, remove unnecessary chemicals from schools and encourage responsible chemical management and safety practices. The twofold scope of the Nebraska SC3 effort is education and training for both pre-service student teachers and in-service training for the proper and safe management of chemicals in schools as well as to develop a comprehensive system for the removal of and proper disposal of unneeded and outdated chemicals.



### ***Program Facilitator:***

***Keep Nebraska Beautiful  
3201 Pioneers Blvd., Suite 118  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502  
402.486.4562  
Email: [Info@knb.org](mailto:Info@knb.org)  
Website: [www.NebraskaSC3.org](http://www.NebraskaSC3.org)***



Through the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign (NE SC3) a team of state agencies assist K-12 schools with the removal of dangerous chemicals and solve chemical management problems that endanger students and staff. When chemicals are used responsibly, they enable students to make scientific discoveries, create works of art and develop vocational skills. But when they are improperly stored, outdated, unknown or unnecessary, chemicals can create serious health and safety problems for students and staff. Across the state, chemicals can be found in areas such as:

- School chemistry and biology laboratories
- Art classes
- Vocational classes
- Facility maintenance areas
- Janitorial closets
- School cafeterias

## What is at stake?

From elementary school maintenance closets to high school chemical labs, schools house a variety of chemicals. Every year, throughout the country, hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on K-12 school accidents, involving chemicals, which in some cases have been unused for decades. When improperly used or stored, chemicals can put students, staff, and others at risk from spills, explosions, or other accidental exposure.

### What chemicals are being found?

- Radioactive materials
- High hazardous
- Potentially explosive chemicals
- Chemicals which have no educational value

### Why Develop a SC3 Program?

A chemical cleanout and prevention program will:

- Protect the health and safety of children and school personnel
- Prevent fires and spills
- Prevent school closures
- Protect the environment
- Save money, reduce liability



Successful cleanout and prevention programs are customized to meet the specific needs of the school district. Several elements are common to all successful programs. These elements include:

- On-site technical assistance
- Education and hazard awareness training for school personnel
- School commitment to ensure proper chemical management
- Adequate funding for chemical disposal
- Partnerships with other organizations to achieve program goals

### Key Components

- Establish a Chemical Hygiene Plan
- Conduct annual chemical inventories
- Plan and budget for chemical purchases, management and disposal
- Establish environmentally preferable purchasing practices

practices

- Encourage school staff to use the smallest amount of the least hazardous chemicals
- Offer chemical management safety training for school staff

### What are the Expected Results?

Chemical incidents have resulted in lost school days and cleanup expenses that cost schools, school districts, and communities tax dollars. Schools that adopt and perform responsible chemical management practices are taking steps toward sustainable solutions that:

- Reduce chemical exposures, fires and spills that may require costly cleanups
- Create healthier school environments
- Minimize school days lost to chemical cleanups
- Decrease liability
- Protect the environment

### What are the NE SC3 Goals?

- Remove inappropriate, outdated, unknown and unnecessary chemicals from schools
- Prevent future chemical mismanagement in schools through training, curriculum and policy change and long-term management solutions.
- Raise awareness of chemical issues in schools and promote sustainable solutions.

### What can You Do?

- Contact your school district to be sure a program is in place to address chemical management issues.
- Work with your school's SC3 team to identify priority issues and address environmental health issues.
  - Identify and recommend community partners who may be able to lend expertise to address the chemical issues in schools.
  - Learn more about the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign at [www.NebraskaSC3.org](http://www.NebraskaSC3.org).

